BOSTON, *December* 17, 1773.

At a Meeting of the PEOPLE *of* Boſton, *and the neighbouring* Towns *at the Old South Meeting Houſe in* Boſton, *on Tueſday* December 14, 1773, *and continued by Adjournment to Thurſday the* 16th *of ſaid Month, occaſioned by the perfidious Arts of our reſtleſs Enemies, to render ineffectual the late Reſolutions of the Body of the People,*

Mr. SAMULL PHILLIPS SAVAGE,

A Gentleman of the Town of Weſton, *was choſen Moderator.*

A Motion made and paſſed that Mr. Rotch Owner of Capt. Hall's ſhip, be deſired to give his attendance.

Captain Bruce, Maſter of one of the ſhips with Tea on board, being preſent, It was moved that he might be aſked, Whether he will demand a clearance for his ſhip of the cuſtom-houſe, and if refuſed, enter his Proteſt, and then proceed on his voyage for London——He replied, that when all his goods were landed, he would demand a clearance, but if refuſed, he was loth to ſtand the ſhot of thirty two pounders.

Mr. Rotch appeared, and was required at his peril to apply immediately to Mr. Collector Harriſon for a clearance for his ſhip; and Benjamin Kent, Eſq; with nine other gentlemen, were appointed to proceed with him to the Collector's.

Mr. Rotch returned and acquainted the Body, that he had, accompanied by the above committee, waited on the Collector, and required a clearance for his veſſel, as directed; and that the Collector reply'd, that he choſe to ſee the Comptroller firſt; & at Ten o'clock the next morning he ſhould be ready to give his anſwer.

It was then moved that this meeting be adjourn'd to Thurſday next Ten o'clock, A.M. and that Mr. Rotch and the Committee be deſired to wait upon the Collector at the time appointed—And the Meeting was accordingly adjourned.

THURSDAY, December 16, Ten o'Clock, A.M.
Met according to Adjournment.

THE Committee to accompany Mr. Rotch to the Collector reported, That Mr. Rotch had made his demand in the following Manner, viz.

"I am required and compell'd at my peril, by a body of people aſſembled at the old ſouth meeting houſe, yeſterday, where Mr. Samuel Phillips Savage was preſident, to make a demand of you to give me a clearance for the ſhip Dartmouth for London in the ſituation ſhe is now in with the tea on board."

Upon which one of the committee obſerv'd, that they were preſent, by order of the body only as witneſſes of the before mention'd demand, and the anſwer that ſhould be given.

Thereupon Mr. Harriſon the collector ſaid to Mr. Rotch (Mr. Hallowell the comptroller being preſent) then it is you make the demand, Mr. Rotch anſwer'd, yes, and am compell'd at my peril. Then Mr. Harriſon ſaid to Mr. Rotch, your ſhip Dartmouth enter'd with me the 30th November laſt with dutiable articles on board, for which the duties have not been paid, I cannot therefore give you a clearance until ſhe is diſcharg'd of thoſe articles, conſiſtent with my duty.

Mr. Rotch attending according to order, was informed, that this Body expect that he will immediately proteſt againſt the cuſtom houſe, and apply to the Governor for his Paſs for the Caſtle, and that his veſſel ſhall this day proceed on her voyage for London.

Mr. Rotch reply'd to this, that he could not comply with their Requirement, becauſe it was impracticable.

Mr. Rotch was then told that he had aſſured the Body that his Veſſel ſhould ſail within twenty days after her arrival, which term would this day expire, and being aſked whether ſhe would order her to ſail this day, he reply'd that he would

[illegible] deſired Mr. Rotch to make all poſſible diſpatch in making a proteſt and procuring a clearance for his veſſel, and then adjourned till 3 o'Clock, P.M. met according to Adjournment.

THE people were informed, that ſeveral towns had lately came into meaſures to prevent the conſumption of Tea, whereupon it was motioned and Voted, that it is the ſenſe of this Body that the uſe of Tea is improper and pernicious.

Upon a motion made, *Voted*, That it is the opinion of this Body, that it would be expedient for every town in this province to appoint committees of Inſpection to prevent this deteſted Tea from coming into any of our towns.

It was moved and the queſtion put, Whether it be the ſenſe and determination of this Body to abide by their former Reſolutions with reſpect to the not ſuffering the Tea to be landed——Which paſſed in the affirmative, Nem. Con.

It being now half paſt 4 o'clock, many were deſirous and even moved that the meeting ſhould be immediately Diſſolved; but ſome gentlemen of the country informing the Body that their ſeveral towns were ſo very anxious to have full information as to this matter, that they were quite deſirous the meeting ſhould be continued untill 6 o'clock, eſpecially as Mr. Rotch had been met with on his way to Milton for a paſs, the motion was accordingly over-ruled.

Mr. Rotch returned before 6 o'clock, and informed the Body, that in purſuance of their direction he had waited upon Governor Hutchinſon, and demanded of him a paſs for his veſſel ſailing by the Caſtle, and received for anſwer, "That he was willing to grant any thing conſiſtent with the laws and his duty to the King, but that he could not give a paſs unleſs the veſſel was properly qualified from the Cuſtom-Houſe; but that he ſhould make no diſtinction between this and any other veſſels, provided ſhe was properly cleared—He further acquainted the Body, that his proteſt againſt the Cuſtom Houſe not being finiſhed in ſeaſon, he could not carry the ſame with him, but declared, that he had informed the Governor of the ſteps he had and was taking as to a proteſt.

Mr. Rotch was then aſked, Whether he would ſend his veſſel back with the Tea in her under her preſent circumſtances? who anſwered that he could not poſſibly comply, as he apprehended a compliance would prove his ruin—He was further aſked, Whether it was his intention to land the Teas? He reply'd, that he had no buſineſs to do in it unleſs he was called upon by the proper perſons, in which caſe he ſhould attempt to land it for his own ſecurity.

The body having manifeſted an exemplary patience and caution in the methods it had purſued to preſerve the Tea, the property of the Eaſt India Company, without its being made ſaleable among us, which muſt have been fatal to the common-wealth, and to return it ſafe and untouch'd to its proprietors, and perceiving that in every ſtep they have taken towards this juſt and ſalutary purpoſe, they have been counterworked by the Conſignees of the Tea, and their Coadjutors, who have plainly manifeſted their inclination of throwing the community into the moſt violent commotions, rather than relinquiſh and give up the profits of a commiſſion or contract, and the advantages they have imagined from the eſtabliſhment of an American revenue; and no one being able to point out any thing further that was in the power of this Body to do, for the ſalutary purpoſe aforeſaid——

It was moved and Voted, That this Meeting be immediately diſſolved——and it was accordingly diſſolved.

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The Body deſired Mr. Rotch to make all poſſible diſpatch in making a proteſt and procuring a paſs for his veſſel, and then adjourned till 3 o'Clock, P. M.

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It was moved and Voted, That this Meeting be immediately diſſolved——and it was accordingly diſſolved. and the Tea was thrown overboard

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